<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A communication system, comprising:

first storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of content information;

second storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of content information;

selection means for selecting at least one piece of content information by using a single set of management information;

control means for accessing said selected content information stored in said first storage means and said second storage means based on said single set of management information for managing said content information stored in said first storage means and said second storage means;

communication means for interconnecting said first storage means, said second storage means, and said control means for communication; and

accounting setting means for setting an amount of a fee to be imposed on a predetermined user in accordance with a capacity of use of said second storage means by said predetermined user, wherein

said control means accesses said content information stored at a predetermined physical address of each of said first storage means and said second storage means based on

said single set of management information described with a
logical address corresponding to said physical address.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)   The communication
system according to claim 1, further comprising selection
means for selecting at least one of said plurality of pieces
of content information stored in said second storage means,
wherein said control means controls so that one or more of
said plurality of pieces of content information selected by
said selection means may be copied or moved from said second
storage means to said first storage means through said
communication means.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented)   The communication
system according to claim 3, wherein said control means
searches for a logical address of said management
information corresponding to said one or more of said
plurality of pieces of content information selected by said
selection means, converts said logical address into a
physical address of said second storage means and accesses
said second storage means based on said physical address.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented)   The communication
system according to claim 3, further comprising erasure
means for erasing one or more of said plurality of pieces of
content information stored in said first storage means,

wherein where a contents ID of said content information erased by said erasure means is managed with said management information, when said information corresponding to said contents ID is again transferred from said second storage means to said first storage means by said control means said accounting setting means does not set said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user who has issued a request for said transfer.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 3, further comprising erasure means for erasing one or more said pieces of said plurality of pieces of content information stored in said first storage means, wherein where a contents ID of the contents information erased by said erasure means is managed with the management information, when said content information corresponding to said contents ID is again transferred from said second storage means to said first storage means by said control means said accounting setting means sets a smaller amount of said fee to be imposed on said user who has issued a request for said transfer than a normal fee.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting said capacity of use for said second storage means, wherein said accounting setting means sets

said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user in accordance with said capacity of use of said user set by said setting means.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 8, wherein said setting means adaptively sets said capacity of use used by said user based on said management information for managing said second storage means, and said accounting setting means sets said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user in accordance with said capacity of use of said user set by said setting means.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said accounting setting means stores said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user in accordance with said capacity of use of said second storage means by said user in a database for each said user in said second storage means.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 10, wherein said control means controls such that said imposed amount of said fee stored for each said user in said database and a user ID of said user are transmitted to an external settlement center.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 1, further comprising

authentication means for verifying access to said second storage means by said control means.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 12, wherein said second storage means stores a plurality of said user IDs, and said authentication means compares said user ID with which said second storage means is accessed and said plurality of said user IDs to authenticate said user who has accessed said second storage means.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A communication method, comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one piece of content information by using a single set of management information;

accessing selected contents information stored in first storage means and second storage means based on a single set of management information for managing said content information stored in said first storage means and said second storage means; and

setting an amount of a fee to be imposed on a user of said first storage means or said second storage means in response to a capacity of use of said first storage means or said second storage means by said user, wherein

said control means accesses said contents information stored at a predetermined physical address of said storage means based on said management information described with a logical address corresponding to said physical address.

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Claim 15 (Previously Presented)   A distribution apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of content information;

communication means for connecting said distribution apparatus for communication to an external apparatus;

accounting setting means for setting an amount of a fee to be imposed on a user who requests use of said storage means from said external apparatus in response to a capacity of use of said storage means by said user; and

control means for accessing said contents information stored in said storage means based on management information for managing said contents information stored in said storage means in response to a user request by a user from said external apparatus,

wherein said control means produces management information for each said user in response to access to said content information in accordance with said user request and stores said produced management information into said storage means, said management information including at least an ID of said user and an address representative of a storage location of said content information stored in said storage means;

said control means accesses said contents information stored at a predetermined physical address of said storage means based on said management information described with a logical address corresponding to said physical address; and

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said control means controls such that one or more of said plurality of pieces of said content information selected by said user by using said external apparatus may be copied or moved from said storage means to said external apparatus through said communication means.

Claims 16-18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The distribution apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said control means searches for a logical address of said management information corresponding to said one or more of said plurality of pieces of content information selected by said selection means, converts said logical address into a physical address of said storage means, and accesses said storage means based on said physical address.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The distribution apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when contents information stored in said external apparatus is erased and said content ID is managed with said management information and when said content information corresponding to said content ID is transferred from said storage means to said external apparatus again by said control means, said accounting setting means does not set said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user who has issued said request for said transfer.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The distribution apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when said content information stored in said external apparatus is erased and said content ID is managed with said management information and when said content information corresponding to said content ID is transferred from said storage means to said external apparatus again by said control means, said accounting setting means sets a smaller than a predetermined amount of said fee to be imposed on said user who has issued said request for said transfer.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The distribution apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said accounting setting means sets said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user in accordance with a capacity of use of said storage means by said user.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The distribution apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising setting means for setting said capacity of use for said storage means, wherein said accounting setting means sets said amount of said fee to be imposed on said user in accordance with said capacity of use of said user set by said setting means.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The distribution apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said setting means adaptively sets said capacity of use used by said user based

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on said management information for managing said storage

means, and said accounting setting means sets said amount of

said fee to be imposed on said user in accordance with said

capacity of use of said user set by said setting means.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The distribution

apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said accounting

setting means stores said amount of said fee to be imposed

on said user in accordance with said capacity of use of said

storage means by said user in a database for each said user

in said storage means.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The distribution

apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said control means

controls such that said imposed amount of said fee stored

for each said user in said database and an ID of said user

are transmitted to an external settlement center.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The distribution

apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising

authentication means for verifying an access to said storage

means by said control means.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The distribution

apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said storage means

stores a plurality of user IDs, and said authentication

means compares said user IDs with which said storage means

is accessed and said plurality of user IDs to authenticate

said user who has accessed said storage means.

Claim 29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) A terminal apparatus for receiving content information from a distribution apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of pieces of said content information;

communication means for receiving a plurality of content IDs stored in said distribution apparatus from said distribution apparatus and transmitting at least one said content ID to said distribution apparatus in response to a user request;

selection means for selecting one content ID of said plurality of content IDs received by said communication means; and

control means for controlling said communication means to transmit said at least one content ID to said distribution apparatus in response to said user request and storing addresses corresponding to said content IDs received from said distribution apparatus into said storage means,

wherein said control means controls said communication means to transmit said addresses stored in said storage means to said distribution apparatus such that said communication means receives said content information associated with said addresses from said distribution address at any time said terminal apparatus requests said

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content information corresponding to said content ID from said distribution apparatus after storing said addresses received from said distribution apparatus into said storage means;

said control means controls said communication means to transmit said content ID selected by said selection means to said distribution apparatus; and

said control means stores a logical address corresponding to a predetermined physical address of a storage medium provided in said distribution apparatus at which said content information received in response to said user request by said communication means is stored into said storage means.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented)   The terminal apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said logical address is included in a piece of management information which is used commonly by said distribution apparatus and said terminal apparatus.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented)   The terminal apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said control means extracts said logical address included in said management information corresponding to content ID in response to said user request, and transmits said logical address to said distribution apparatus.

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Claims 34-42 (Cancelled).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented)   A communication system
having a terminal apparatus, a distribution terminal
apparatus and a server apparatus interconnected for
communication, comprising:

a first storage medium provided in said server
apparatus for storing a plurality of pieces of content
information;

a second storage medium provided in said distribution
terminal apparatus for storing said plurality of pieces of
content information;

a third storage medium provided in said terminal
apparatus for storing said plurality of pieces of content
information; and

a controller for controlling access to any of said
first, said second, and said third storage media based on
management information for managing said content information
stored in at least two of said first, said second, and said
third storage media with a single table of contents, wherein

at least one piece of content information is selected
using a single set of management information; and

said controller accesses said selected content
information stored at a predetermined physical address of
each of said first and said second storage media based on
said management information described with a logical address
corresponding to said physical address.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 43, wherein said management information includes first management information for managing said content information stored in said first storage medium and said second storage medium with a first table of contents, and second management information for managing said content information stored in said second storage medium and said third storage medium with a second table of contents.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 43, wherein said management information includes shared management information for managing said content information stored in said first, said second, and said third storage media with said table of contents.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 44, wherein said first management information is stored in said storage means of at least one of said server apparatus and said distribution terminal apparatus, and said second management information is stored in said storage means of at least one of said distribution terminal apparatus and said terminal apparatus.

Claim 47 (Cancelled).

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Claim 48 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 43, further comprising a selection section for selecting one or more of said plurality of pieces of content information stored in said first storage medium or said second storage medium in response to a user request to said terminal apparatus, wherein said controller searches for a logical address of said management information corresponding to said one or more of said plurality of pieces of content information selected by said selection section, converts said logical address into a physical address of said first storage medium or said second storage medium and accesses said first storage medium or said second storage medium based on said physical address.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 43, wherein said first storage medium is a hard disk and said third storage medium is a semiconductor memory.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 43, wherein said information is digital audio data.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 50, wherein said digital audio data is compressed data.

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Claim 52 (Previously Presented)   The communication system according to claim 51, wherein said digital audio data is data compressed in an ATRAC format.